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# BLUE GRASS BLADE.

EDITED BY A HEATHEN IN THE INTEREST OF GOOD MORALS

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## WILLIAM RANDOLF HEARST

GREATEST JOURNALIST THAT AMERICA EVER HAD.

Expresses Sentiments, Re-printed in This Issue of the Blade, That Should Make Him the Infidel's Candidate for President in 1904.

I have for some time, supposed that William Randolph Hearst with his great papers in New York, Chicago and San Francisco, was the most enterprising journalist in the world. I have, all the time, had the general impression that he was a very advanced thinker. I have the general impression that he has offered his name as a candidate for president of the United States, but to what extent he has pressed his claim, if at all, I do not know.

Some friend who is unknown to me has sent me the three editorials from Mr. Hearst's papers that are printed in this issue of the Blade.

My gratification at reading them is simply immense, and I think the sentiment of these editorials plainly marks him as the man that American Infidels should support in 1904, for President of the United States, and, if there is any doubt of his candidacy, all people in the United States who are in favor of separating church and State, in the management of the affairs of this government, should express to him their desire that he should become their candidate for President.

I do not mean to say that Mr. Hearst is as able a defender of the principles of Freethought as various propagandists, male and female, of the cause, but of the leading propagandists there are none that are even approximately available, while Mr. Hearst is a champion of the leading principles of Infidel thought and he is immensely available.

I am, myself, an Atheist and a late symposium in the Blade I think shows that the general trend of Infidelity is toward Atheism.

Mr. Hearst is not an Atheist and editorially makes an argument against Atheism some of which I think untenable, and to which I reply. Mr. Hearst does not even, so far as I have seen, announce himself an Infidel of the deistic school, but it seems evident that he is in full sympathy and fellowship with such Infidels as Paine, Franklin, Jefferson and Lincoln all of whom were deistic Infidels.

I do not believe that it would be most expedient for us to want an Atheist for our candidate for president of the United States.

A consistent Deist, as Mr. Hearst seems to be, would do for us all that even the most radical Atheist asks, in affairs of government, and, of course, we ought not to want to tax the common Christian faith any more than is absolutely necessary, for there are many Christians, who while they would not be willing to abjure their faith to support, for president, a man like Hearst, would, nevertheless, support him simply because he defends the true spirit of this government that was founded on Infidelity by Infidels, the very basic principle of this government—its main corner stone—being that religion should not be allowed to influence the affairs of this government in any official capacity.

It seems to me that Mr. Hearst plainly announces his support of the very leading of the principles that we embodied in the platform of the National Liberal Party.

We have, as I have suggested, men in the National Liberal Party, who more fully represent our views than Mr. Hearst does, but we have no man who could make any canvass for presidency that would be at all formidable because we have not among us the means to make such a canvass.

Mr. Hearst has means abundant and has great newspapers to support him, and he is in sympathy with the main features of our cause without any effort on our part to make him so and it is quite possible that he would make any conservative concessions that we might ask of him.

We should have a meeting of the executive committee of the National Liberal Party to formulate an address to Mr. Hearst and get from him an expression of what he would be willing to do for us, and while I am personally, a radical of the radicals I think such an address should be quite conservative.

### FREETHOUGHT CONGRESS

AT ROME IN 1904.

At the International Freethought Congress at Geneva in September last year it was resolved that the next Congress should be held in Rome in 1904, September 20th. No time has been lost in commencing the preparatory labors of the organization.

M. Leon Furnmont, Deputy for Charleroi to the Belgian Parliament, and General Secretary of the Interna-

tional Rationalist Federation, is now in London for the purpose of forming an English committee.

Similar committees have already been formed in various other countries, notably France, Belgium, Italy, Spain, Holland, and Switzerland. On the several national committees there figure such well known names as those of Professor Haackel, the illustrious German professor; Professor Berthelot, secretaire perpetuel of the Academie des Sciences at Paris; MM. Aulard, Gabriel Seailles, professors at the Sorbonne; M. Herve, director of the Institut des Hautes Etudes at Paris; such distinguished senators as MM. Clemenceau and Delpech; and numerous deputies, representing all shades of the Republican party, among whom MM. Buisson, Lockroy, and Hubbard may be noted.

In Italy the committee is headed by such well known men as Professor Lombroso and Signor Enrico Ferri, De Cristoforis, and Pellegrini (Deputy of the Italian Parliament) and Professor Sergi, of the University of Rome. Professor Bivio, the distinguished savant and patriot, whose in mented death occurred a few days ago, has accepted the position of honorary president of the Congress.

The recent successes of the Spanish Republican party have sent to the Cortes a number of deputies who have already joined the committee in that country. Among these many be mentioned Nicolas Salmeron, the former President of the Spanish Republic, Miguel Morayta, the Grand Master of the Spanish Freemasons, and Admiral Marengo (Deputy for Cadix).

On the Belgium committee will be found the names of Professor Heeter Denis and the following Deputies: D. Leon Furnmont, Paul Jansen, the leader of the Liberal party, and Georges Lorand. The office of the Federation is at 13 Rue du Montreux, Brussels.

It may be noted that M. Furnmont is about to proceed to Berlin, Vienna and Budapest, in order to form the German, Austrian and Hungarian committees. Already in the various Republics of South American similar committees are being constituted.

The English committee will comprise representatives of all grades of rationalist thought. Professors Henry Maudsley and the veteran George Jacob Holyoake will be the presidents d'honneur. The other names include those of Earl Russell, Lady Florence Dixie, Joseph McCabe, John M. Robertson, Edward Clodd, Sydney Gimson, F. J. Gould, Mrs. H. Bradlaugh Bonner, Dr. G. B. Clark, E. Belfort Fox, J. F. Green, Charles Watts, G. W. Foote, Chapman Cohen, Victor Roger, and P. H. Thomas. Several of the above named have indicated their intention of being present at the Congress.

In the meantime the English committee will be placed in communication with the other national committees, and will co-operate with them in framing the program of the Congress. The secretary of the English committee, Mr. William Hearst, writes: "Let me assure the English reader that French, Belgian, Italian and Spanish Freethought—so far as I know its literature and the men who write and speak for Freethought in those lands—is no mere anti-clerical cry of 'Down with the priest and up with the people,' but a conscious, intelligent movement, based on a wide survey of human history and of man's social and political needs, embodying a radically rationalistic view of life and duty—a movement accelerated by splendid enthusiasm and adorned by illustrious talent."

## Bro. Smith Emerson

PASSED FROM LIFE AUG. 22, '03— WAS CHARTER MEMBER N. L. P.—ONE OF THE BEST KNOW LIBERALS IN WISCONSIN.

Oak Centre, Wis., Sep. 2, 1903.

Editor Blue Grass Blade: Dear Friend—As Smith Emerson, my dear husband, was one of the charter members of the National Liberal Party, also Honorary Vice President, in deepest sorrow I inform you he passed from life unto death August 22nd, 1903, after an illness of several months. He was born at Warsaw, N. Y., February 14, 1827. He leaves a host of friends, a wife and two sons and two daughters, each having homes of their own. He was a kind husband and loving father always ready to help those who needed help.

Has been a reader of your paper for several years. Was in full possession of his mind until almost the last. When the end came fell into a sweet sleep. Was looking forward to meeting you and other Liberal friends at St. Louis in 1904, but death came too soon. Yours in sorrow,

MRS. SMITH EMERSON.

### INFIDEL LADGE FOR 5 CENTS.

The little Infidel button gotten up by Mr. Charles F. Braun of Cincinnati, I think is cute and appropriate in design and tasteful and substantial in its mechanical execution.

One will last a life time and it costs only five cents and we will pay the postage on them.

Its cabalistic figures and signs, 3x1-3 are a very ingenious exposition of the Trinity of Infidelity as opposed to that of the Christians.

## AN ATTACK

ON THE AMERICAN PUBLIC SCHOOL IS AN ATTACK ON THE NATIONAL WELFARE.

IT IS UNJUST, AS WELL AS UNPatriotic.

(From the New York Journal.)

On Tuesday, August 25, in New York City, a distinguished clergyman, preaching to a large congregation, dealt with certain aspects of present social conditions.

His emphasis of the importance of morality throughout life was admirable and truthful.

His denunciation of the divorce evil was powerful and in the interest of the home and of the future.

But his attack on the American public school, one of a regular series of such attacks daily becoming more numerous, we feel bound to resent and oppose.

The public school of America does not need any defender. It underlies the country's progress, it is the one hope of the country's future. Only knowledge, exact knowledge, brings progress.

But any clergyman or any religion that attacks the public school does need a defender, for such a clergyman or such a religion, if it speak with authority, confesses fear of knowledge, which means fear of truth.

In the attack on the public school it is stated that the public school, in which education in facts is separated from the inculcation of religious belief, accounts for the lack of morality in the people. Crimes of one kind or another are pointed out as the result of the public school, in which spelling, arithmetic, geometry and other departments of fact are kept distinct from the religious training, which inculcates miracles and belief.

We shall show how unjust and foolish is the attempt to connect individual crime with the splendid, beneficent, national public school system.

The newspaper which contained the attack mentioned on the public school told also of a young army officer named Murtagh. This young man had disgraced himself through fraud, and had been accused of conduct unbecoming an officer, and also of being a common thief.

Would it not be strictly unjust to hold that religious school responsible for this unfortunate young man's predicament?

That same newspaper contained an account of a young woman confined in the Tomb Prison, accused of forgery and other crimes. That young woman's education was received in a religious institution. Would it not be unjust to hold the good, earnest woman who taught her responsible for her shortcomings?

Czolgoss, the anarchist who murdered President McKinley, was educated in a religious school; he never attend an American public school. Would it not be a stupid crime to hold the religious school responsible for the murder?

The public school, in which all the children of the nation may meet on equal terms, is the nation's glory and greatest hope.

There are religious schools of all kinds, Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic and others, in which children are well educated and in which, in accordance with their parents' desire, religious teaching is added to the branches of instruction. These schools are well managed, their great good, they should be treated with respect. They should be paid for by those who want them.

But the public schools also should be treated with respect, and especially by the ministers of religion.

The Constitution of the United States forbids the recognition of any religion by the Government, which means that all religions should be treated alike justly and impartially. Common sense and common justice demand that when all the people are taxed for the education of children, religion should be left out of the school course, that no faith be endorsed.

Wherever Protestantism, however indirectly, is made a feature of the public school, justice and right are violated.

The Protestant, the Catholic, the Jew, the atheist—all forms of religions, all forms of belief, and of unbelief—should and in the public schools the most intelligent inculcation of established facts.

Those who wish their children to receive an education in which facts and religion are mingled have the right to do as they please, but they should do it at their own expense.

The man who attacks the American public school, be he clergyman or layman, attacks the welfare of the country, although he may not realize it, and he attacks also the standing of his own religion in the estimation of the great majority of American citizens.

### BOY PREACHER

Creating a Furor at a Colored Camp Meeting at Maysville.

Maysville, Ky., Sep. 3.—Great and unflagging interest is being manifested this week in the wonderful preaching of the colored boy preacher, Larry Killebrew, of Louisville, who

is only twelve years old. Never in the history of the colored camp meeting at the fair grounds have the people, white and colored, assembled in such crowds to hear the preaching of one person. Ministers who have grown gray in the service listen with rapt interest to the eloquent words that fall from this boy's lips. He possesses a remarkable memory and gift of language and his sermons are declared to be logical and deep. He is never at a loss for the right word in the right place and so thoroughly does he seem to understand and appreciate his subject that if he were not a colored boy he would be filling the pulpit of some great church. All admit that he is a prodigy.

Comment—Maysville, Ky., is the town that, about two years ago, tied a Negro to a stake, and Sunday morning, in full view of the town, and the children, going to Sunday school, helped to gather up the weeds that they stacked around him and burned him alive.

Lord, Lord, send us the fool killer!

(From New York Journal.)

## THE BIBLE

OFFICIALLY INDORSED—THIS IS REALLY THE APOTHEOSIS OF ROOSEVELT.

In a room set aside for the directors of the Central Railroad of New Jersey there is a very large Bible bound in black and not at all thumbed or dog-eared. It is evidently a Bible given away, not purchased at the expense of the stockholders or directors. And in the front of this Bible, as an indorsement of the words which the Bible contains and in high praise for the author, there is a letter of which we reproduce the front page in this column.

Could anything be more entrancing than this idea of distributing Bibles with an indorsement by Theodore Roosevelt? Could anything show a more charming lack of humor than the sending out of a Bible by a high official of the railroad, in the name of the directors, to the directors of the railroad, who are the very people who are the cause of the Bible's being distributed?

The world was somewhat amused when Theodore Roosevelt sent a complete set of his own books to the Pope. To give to the ruler of the Catholic church, an old man, living a purely spiritual and intellectual existence, imprisoned for life in the Vatican by principle, numerous bound volumes on the art of killing, of the art of war, of the art of politics, of the art of government, and of the art of religion, was certainly humorously juvenile, if nothing worse.

That performance is eclipsed by the indorsement of the Bible by Theodore Roosevelt, who sent out large Bibles to directors of railroad trusts, and by way of adding weight and character to the gift indorsement by Theodore Roosevelt, since it quotes at length the scientist's statement of the Bible, and to his own satisfaction scientifically disproved, a fundamental statement of the Bible, outside of the Sermon on the Mount.

Mr. Roosevelt's indorsement of the Bible is interesting also, because, even in this connection, we are told that it would not be non-strenuous. In his indorsement Mr. Roosevelt tells what we must do to live up to the Bible, and adds:

"That kind of work can only be done by a man who is neither a weakling nor a coward."

Did the executive officers of the American Bible Society, who think that the Bible is helpful by the indorsement of a strenuous fighting man, ever hear of the following text?

"Let the sword of Jesus unto him, put up thy sword into his place; for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword."—Matthew, chapter xxvi, verse 52.

"From whence come wars and fightings among you? Know that they not hence, of your lusts that war in you? James, chapter iv, verse 1. "And ye that kill the flesh, any man shall surely be put to death."—Romans, chapter vii, verse 5. "And he that hateth his neighbor, he is a murderer."—Leviticus, chapter xxi, verse 17.

"He that leadeth into captivity goeth into captivity; he that bindeth with the word must be killed with the sword."—Revelations, chap. xvi, verse 16.

"He that killeth an ox is as if he slew a man; he that sacrificeth a lamb, as if he cut off a dog's neck; he that offereth a calf, as if he offered a swine's blood; he that burneth incense, as if he blessed an idol. Yea, they have chosen their own way, and their soul delighteth in their abominations."—Isaiah, chapter lxvi, verse 17.

"Hear the word of the Lord, ye children of Jacob; for the Lord hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land."—Isaiah, chapter li, verse 7.

"By swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery, ye break the covenant of blood, touch the blood of the covenant, which ye have sworn to."—Leviticus, chapter xv, verses 1 and 2.

"He that sweareth the oath, for they shall perjure the oath."—Matthew, chapter v, verse 34.

"The Lord also shall increase their joy in the Lord, and the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel."—Isaiah, chapter xxxiii, verse 13.

"And shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace."—Psalms, xxxvii, verse 37.

"Should not the multitude of words be answered? and should a man full of talk be justified?"—Job, chapter xli, verse 24.

"It will be noticed that the Bible, which Mr. Roosevelt 'indorses,' does not seem to shrink from the use of killing or his contempt for the meek. The shedding of blood is apparently a subject on which the Bible and Mr. Roosevelt differ. All the more honor to Mr. Roosevelt, of course, for kindly praising opinions contrary to his own.

Verily this is a comical age we live in, and the race must feel a yearning for 'gent' men when the Bible itself is put out by clergymen with an indorsement by a professional bear killer.

P. S.—The Officers of the Bible Society announce that they issue their Bible with the indorsement of Theodore Roosevelt, 'under the kind permission of President Roosevelt. Everybody will easily believe that.

Comment—In this indorsement of the Bible there is a picture of Roosevelt a fac simile of which the Journal gives. Above and below the picture in this indorsement is the following: "President Roosevelt on the Bible—American Bible Society Leaflet, No. 13."

The picture of Roosevelt is that of

## INFIDELITY

In Old Rucker's Baptist College

GIVING THE BRETHERING GREAT TROUBLE IN THE SPIRIT.

Old Rucker as you will know, if you are an old Blade reader, or may know if you read "Behind the Bars, 31,498," the cat who sent me to the penitentiary because I am an Infidel. He did his in reverence for the fact that I printed the fact that he being a Prohibition editor, took \$6,000 from disillder John Atherton to build a dormitory for divinity students and \$1,000 to build a church.

According to the Lexington Leader, of September 3rd, Infidelity seems to have broken out in old Rucker's College, at Georgetown, Ky., and it looks as they may have it bad. It's a Baptist preacher-factory.

A sky-buster, named Whittsett, at Louisville, was the president of the Theological Seminary at that place. Whittsett shot off his mouth on one occasion, about a year ago, so much like he had been reading the Blue Grass Blade that they fired him.

Georgetown College had a president named Gray, and Brer. Gray sympathized with Brer. Whittsett, and Brer. Gray had to skin out and get another job.

They then sent to Norfolk, Va., to get as president Dr. J. J. Taylor. Brer. Taylor accepted the Georgetown job, but now Brer. Dr. T. T. Eaton who is president of the committee to select a college president, yanks up Taylor, seeming to think that Taylor is in sympathy with Whittsett.

Taylor used to be at Lexington and probably read the Blade some.

Altogether the Baptist brethering in Rucker's town seem to be having trouble in the spirit.

\*\*\*\*\* a stolid, dull-eyed man, with thick sensual looking lips, about such as you would expect to express the opinion that he lately uttered that the main job of women was to have children and with the general hypocritical expression on his face that would make him call Tom Paine "a filthy little atheist."

I never would have heard of Teddy's book but for that expression in it, and I read that in an infidel newspaper and never saw the book.

## HOW MR. BLIZZARD

Of Oklahoma, Read "Behind the Bars" For About 24 Consecutive Hours.

### LONGEST READ ON RECORD

The following is a well authenticated story, just told me by Mr. H. L. Peak, of Kentucky and Oklahoma, who has been visiting my house.

Mr. Peak had read "Behind the Bars." He was in Oklahoma, and had gotten a copy of "Behind the Bars," at the post office, and was taking the book to a Mr. Mitch, the gentleman who had ordered it. Mr. Peak met a gentleman of the peculiar name of Blizzard, the son-in-law of Mr. Mitch.

Mr. Peak hand Mr. Blizzard the book to take to his father-in-law saying to Mr. Blizzard, "Perhaps you would enjoy reading it yourself."

That was in the evening—same that the Yankees call "afternoon."

Mr. Blizzard took the book to his own house and began to read it. He read the balance of the evening and then read it all night and until 3 o'clock the next evening without stopping, and then he had finished the book.

That is the longest well authenticated case of reading that I ever heard of.

Of course I am printing this story to call attention to my book that I wrote in the penitentiary, to help to sell it.

I do not think any body can fully appreciate "Dog Fennel in the Orient" who has never read "Behind the Bars; 31,498."

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143

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### "THE DAMNED STUFF CALLED ALCOHOL."

I believe that alcohol, to a certain degree, demoralizes those who make it, those who sell it, and those who drink it.

I believe from the time it issues from the coiled and poisonous worm of the distillery until it empties into the hell of crime, death and dishonor, it demoralizes everybody that touches it.

I do not believe that anybody can contemplate the subject without becoming prejudiced against this liquid crime.

All you have to do is to think of the deaths—of the suicides, of the insanity, of the poverty, of the ignorance, of the distress, of the little children tugging at the faded dresses of weeping and despairing wives, asking for bread; or the men of genius it has wrecked; of the millions who have struggled with imaginary serpents produced by this think of the jails, of the almshouses, of the prisons, of the scaffolds upon either bank, I do not wonder that every thoughtful man is prejudiced against the damned stuff called alcohol.

ROBERT G. INGERSOLL.

"Keep Church and State forever separate."—Grant.

"In no sense whatsoever is this government founded upon the Christian religion."—Washington.

"The divorce between Church and State should be absolute."—Garfield.

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